

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 25.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Once Amended) An electrosurgical instrument, comprising:

a hand piece configured to receive radio frequency energy from an electrosurgical generator; and

a conductive tip adapted to receive the radio frequency energy from the hand piece, the conductive tip comprising, on at least a portion of the tip, a coating comprising a multi-character material providing a low shear, sacrificial layer to the tip.

6. (Once Amended) An electrosurgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein the

multi-character material comprises an amphiphilic material with molecular chains having a hydrophilic characteristic and a hydrophobic characteristic.

8. (Once Amended) An electrosurgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein the

multi-character material comprises a water-soluble polymer comprising at least one of:

- (i) polyethylene oxide;
- (ii) polyethylene glycol; or
- (iii) a copolymer of ethylene oxide.

9. (Once Amended) An electrosurgical instrument as recited in claim 8, wherein the water-soluble polymer comprises at least one of a water soluble hetero atom polymer, a water soluble acrylate polymer, a water soluble acrylic acid polymer, a water soluble vinyl polymer, and a water soluble natural polymer.

10. (Once Amended) An electrosurgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein the coating further includes a radical scavenger to reduce damage to the coating during a process of gamma sterilization.

11. (Once Amended) An electrosurgical instrument as recited in claim 6, wherein the hydrophobic characteristic comprises at least one of:

- (i) polypropylene oxide;
- (ii) a fluorocarbon; or
- (iii) a hydrocarbon.

12. (Once Amended) An electrosurgical instrument as recited in claim 8, wherein the water-soluble polymer is a carrier that provides a factor on a contact area of a patient's body during the electrosurgical procedure.

14. (Once Amended) An electrosurgical instrument as recited in claim 8, wherein the water-soluble polymer provides the low shear, sacrificial layer to the tip.

17. (Once Amended) A tip adapted for use in performing an electrosurgical procedure, the tip comprising:

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a prepared surface; and

a coating applied to at least a portion of the prepared surface, wherein the coating includes a multi-character material providing a low shear, sacrificial layer to the tip.

29. (Once Amended) A method for coating a tip of an electrosurgical instrument, the method comprising:

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preparing a surface of an electrosurgical tip to be coated; and

applying a multi-character material coating layer on the surface such that the multi-character material provides a low shear, sacrificial layer to the tip.

32. (Once Amended) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein applying a multi-
A9 character material coating layer comprises using a process of electrophoresis to draw a multi-character material into at least a portion of the pores, wherein the combination of the multi-character material and a base material of the base material coating layer form a first layer about at least a portion of the tip.

35. (Once Amended) A method as recited in claim 32, further comprising applying a
A10 coating layer onto the first layer, wherein the coating layer includes a hydrophilic material.

36. (Once Amended) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein applying a multi-character material coating layer includes utilizing an application process that comprises at least one of:

- (i) a dip process;
- (ii) a spray process;
- (iii) a brushing process;
- (iv) a wiping process; or
- (v) an adsorption process.

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37. (Once Amended) A method as recited in claim 36, wherein the multi-character material coating layer comprises an amphophilic material with molecular chains having a hydrophobic characteristic and a hydrophilic characteristic, and wherein the hydrophilic characteristic comprises at least one of:

- (i) polyethylene oxide;
- (ii) polyethylene glycol; or
- (iii) a copolymer of ethylene oxide.

38. (Once Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the hydrophobic characteristic comprises at least one of:

- (i) polypropylene oxide;
- (ii) a fluorocarbon; or
- (iii) a hydrocarbon.

Please add the following new claims:

39. An electrosurgical instrument, comprising:

a hand piece configured to receive radio frequency energy from an electrosurgical generator; and

6 11 a conductive tip adapted to receive the radio frequency energy from the hand piece, the conductive tip comprising, on at least a portion of the tip, a multi-character material comprising an amphophilic material with molecular chains having a hydrophilic characteristic and a hydrophobic characteristic.

40. A tip for use in performing an electrosurgical procedure, the tip comprising:

a prepared surface; and

a coating over at least a portion of the prepared surface, wherein the coating includes a multi-character material comprising an amphophilic material with molecular chains having a hydrophilic characteristic and a hydrophobic characteristic.

41. A tip as recited in claim 40, further comprising a coating layer over the coating; the coating layer including a hydrophilic material.

42. A tip for use in performing an electrosurgical procedure, the tip comprising:

a prepared surface; and

a coating over at least a portion of the prepared surface, wherein the coating includes a multi-character material comprising a radical scavenger that reduces damage to the coating during a process of gamma sterilization.

43. A method for coating a tip of an electrosurgical instrument, the method comprising:

preparing a surface of an electrosurgical tip to be coated; and

applying a multi-character material coating layer over the surface, the multi-character material coating layer comprising an amphophilic material with molecular chains having a hydrophilic characteristic and a hydrophobic characteristic.

44. A method for coating a tip of an electrosurgical instrument, the method comprising:

preparing a surface of an electrosurgical tip to be coated;

applying a base material coating layer over the surface, the base material coating layer comprising one or more pores; and

applying a multi-character material coating layer over the base material coating layer by using a process of electrophoresis to draw a multi-character material into at least a portion of the pores, wherein the combination of the multi-character material and a base material of the base material coating layer form a first layer about at least a portion of the tip.

45. A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the multi-character material comprises a charged unit.

46. A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the base material comprises a fluoropolymer.

47. A method as recited in claim 44, further comprising applying a coating layer over the first layer, wherein the coating layer includes a hydrophilic material.

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